

Topography and Climate

Lancaster County has a variety of natural attributes that make it unique to Nebraska and to the United States. These attributes will be illustrated in the following summary report, beginning with a brief discussion on the topography and climate of the County.

Flat and rolling plains and tablelands of moderate relief in a broad belt that slopes gradually eastward characterize this region. Lancaster County covers 846 square miles, spanning 545,856 acres. Elevations range from 1080 feet Mean Sea Level to 1520 feet Mean Sea Level, a difference of 440 feet (See Map 1, County Elevation Relief). The difference in elevation from the highest and lowest points of the county is approximately the height of the State Capitol (including the Sower). The lowest point in Lancaster County is located on Salt Creek as it exits the eastern portion of the county. Generally, there are three high points in the County, which are located near Branched Oak reservoir, Olive Creek reservoir and near the Village of Firth.



Photos: NEBRASKAland Magazine / Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

The climate in the county ranges from very cold in the winter to very hot in the summer. The average winter temperature is 27 degrees Fahrenheit, while the average summer temperature is 76 degrees Fahrenheit. Annually, the county receives about 30 inches of precipitation.

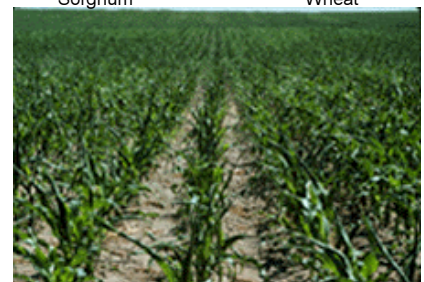
The amount of precipitation is adequate for the types of grain crops grown, including Alfalfa, Corn, Hay, Oats, Sorghum, Soybeans, and Wheat. The average annual growing season is 160 to 175 days (frost-free). In addition to climate, soils are an integral element in the types of crops grown in Lancaster County. Light precipitation and native grasses were some of the factors that gave Nebraska and Lancaster County productive soils.



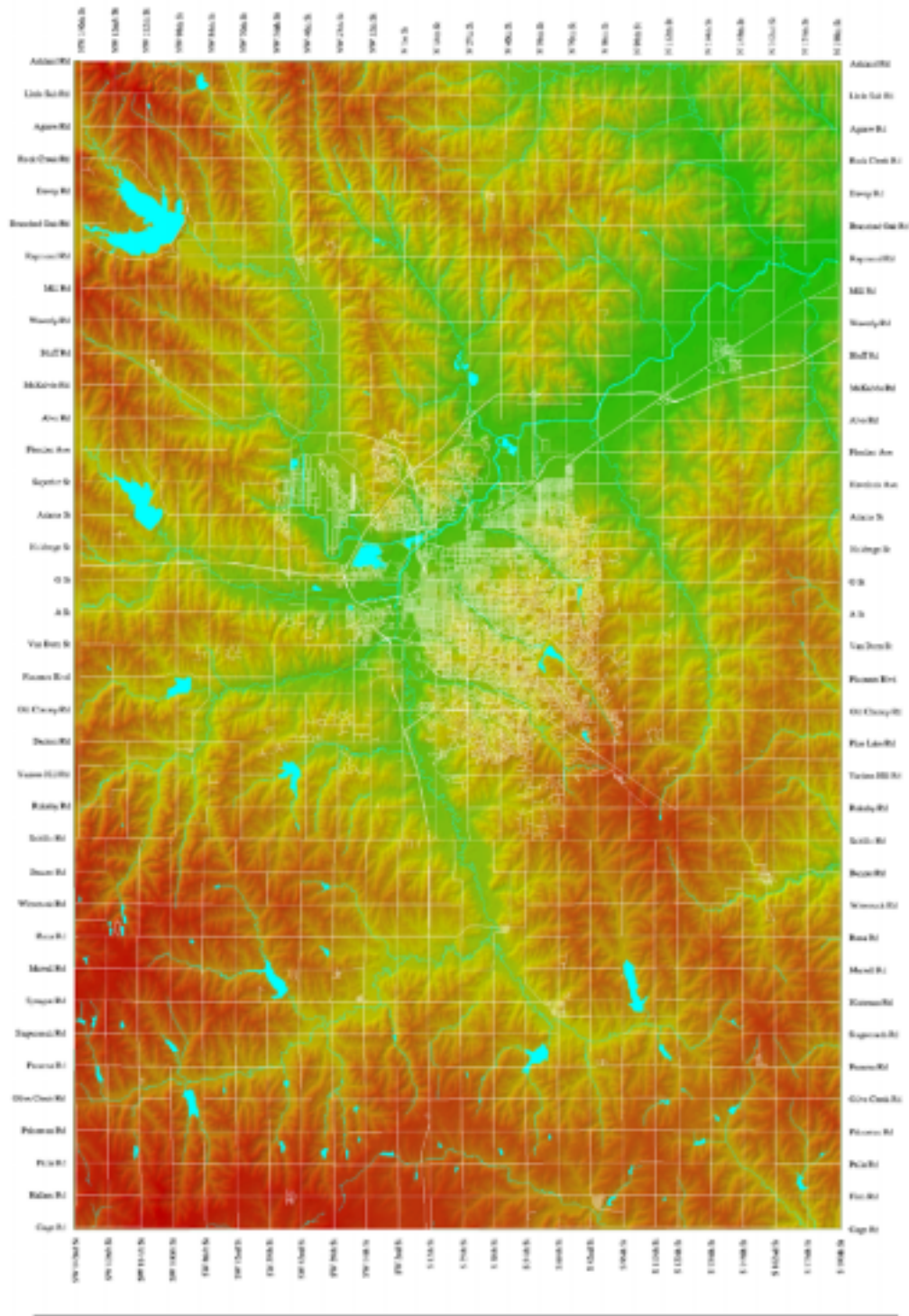
Sorghum



Wheat



Corn



County Elevation Relief

 Lakes and Streams

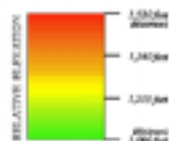


Image by: Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department

Natural Resources - Geographic Information Systems
Interpretive Summary Report

Map 1